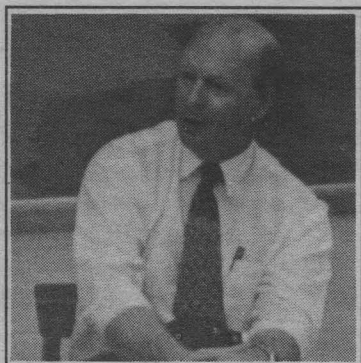


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Mouth of the River

October 25, 1995

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Vol. XVI, Issue 1

ORHS Remembers Brian Swift

Reflections In Memory

By Kelly Watson
News Editor

I feel it is necessary to reflect on the last few weeks, and on a life that gave us all a little something to carry with us in our hearts forever.

Those who knew Brian Swift well knew the importance and the reality of everything the speakers at the memorial service said about him. Brian was described as a diligent worker in school as well as in sports, whether it was that grand slam Mr. Flygare talked about, or Brian's desire to excel at hockey, or his abilities to balance sports and academics that Mrs. Rous addressed.

I was approached by at least a dozen community members all commenting on the strength our senior class has and the bond we hold together. All were impressed by the speeches by se-

niors Brad Taylor, Sean Moriarty, and Brian Tagliaferro, three of Swifts best friends. "The have so much strength, and did a job no other could do better," many commented after the service. The community is correct: no one could have done a better job.

When walking around the reception area, I took a ride back in time at the little league, pee-wee hockey, and elementary school pictures. That strength was seen even then, that everlasting bond.

When you think about the memorial service remember that everything said of Brian is true, he was that amazing guy that became a great teacher way before his time.

Take Mr. Flygare's advice; when you Lou Gehrig's name in the book of baseball greats, see that footnote that says, "Brian C. Swift: 1977-1995."

School Senate Ready to Put Last Year's Plans Into Action

By Mike Beland
Op / Ed Editor

With their first meeting held in mid-September, the new school Senate is ready to move ahead on thier plans.

"We are now going to put last year's ideas into action," said Junior Senator Chris Merenda. "Last year was the year when we devised the Senate, this year we are going to execute."

Other senators also took note of the differences between last year and this one. "Many of us spent a lot of time learning about other school's student government; with those ideas we have formed our own student government."

At the first meeting of the year, the Senate elected Erin Bostrom as the Student Moderator; Michael Lewis the Vice-Moderator; Emma Torbert the Secretary; and Laura Parsons was elected by the faculty as the Faculty Executive.

Erin Bostrom said, "I am looking forward to a very productive year for the Senate, especially because we have five committees; each with eight different Senators (including the faculty), working on different things at the same time. We are hoping to get a lot done."

The Executive Committee is responsible for overseeing the affairs of the Senate and the formation of the

other committees and delegating the different tasks facing the Senate to the appropriate committees. The School Rules Committee is in charge of revising the Constitutin and presenting it to the Superintendent and the School Board. Also they will make annual reviews of the student handbook. The Public Relations Committee deals with the communication with the school body and the community. This includes posting daily announcements, monitoring the bulletin board, and organizing school assemblies. The School Life Committee is involved with all school issues concentrating on issues which cannot be solved by the School Rules Committee. The Ad-hoc Committee will be in charge of developing a judicial system where students, faculty, and administration will work together to uphold school rules and to present the system to the Senate and then will be amended to the Constitution.

"We are hoping this year will be a very productive year and a coming out party for the Senate," commented Jason Baker. Not only are the Senate meetings open to Senators, but "everyone in the school is invited. We are hoping to hear the ideas and needs of all members of the Oyster River community," said sophomore Abbi Green.

To the ORHS Community

Dear Friends,

We are grateful for the opportunity to thank all of you for the kindness and support you gave Brian over the last two years. Through all the days of tests, chemotherapy, and surgeries, knowing he could return to school kept him going.

With your support, Brian always felt he was still a very integral part of the school community, regardless of his illness.

The flexibility of the administration and the understanding of his teachers allowed Brian to continue his learning and excel academically.

To the student body we would like to say, your acceptance of Brian, no matter what the situation, enabled him to grow and live his last two years like any other high school student. And he certainly lived those years to the fullest. This acceptance was the greatest gift you could have given him.

We all have spoken of Brian's courage during his illness. As things changed he adapted and continued on his way. The remarkable thing that happened was that you, his friends, adapted too. You were willing to take some very big chances emotionally and go along that way with him, wherever it led. When Brian was no longer able to go to school, you brought the school to him. You showed your own kind of courage and have every reason to be proud.

We will never forget the way you all came together to help us during the last week. When we saw how close and supportive you were to each other, we couldn't help thinking how happy that would make Brian. You paid him the greatest tribute by being his friends.

On a card Brian was sent in November of 1993 was written, "If life throws you a curve ball, turn it into a home run." I think we would all agree, Brian did just that.

Thank you, again.
Rob, Jane, and Kerry Swift

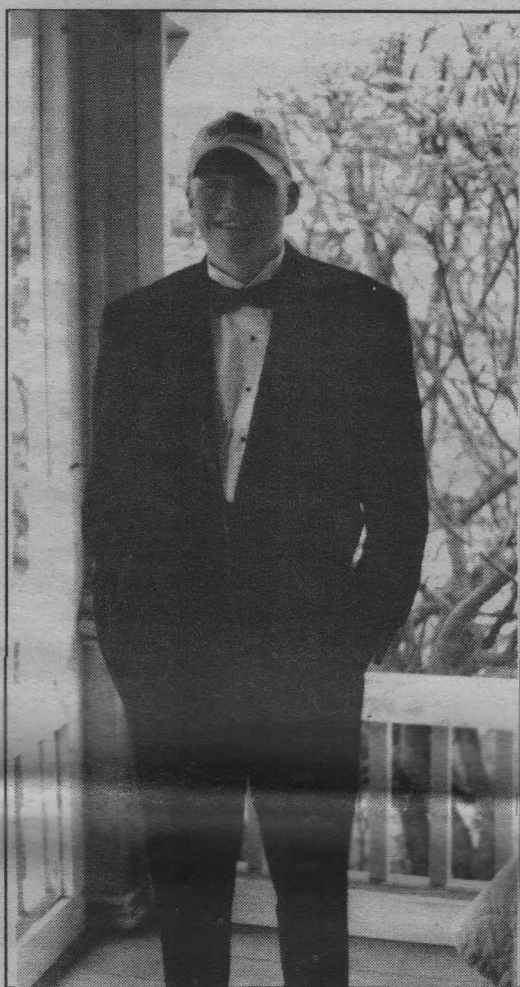


Photo courtesy of the Swift family

Brian Swift before the 1995 Junior Prom.

Advisories Come Under Early Fire

By Marriah Shields

After the fifth week of students meeting in their advisory homerooms, questions have arisen over the effectiveness of this new program.

"For years students and the community have been telling the school they need more respect for each other and the school," said English teacher Emma Rous.

In general, the underclassmen seem to have much more of a positive outlook on advisories.

"Advisories will work to bring the school together," said sophomore Kelsey Taylor.

However, some did not agree; "Most students aren't getting closer to their teachers," said sophomore Matt Harmony.

Juniors and seniors were more negative. "I miss my friends in my old homerooms," said junior Peter Beck. Most upperclassmen felt more comfortable in their old homerooms because they knew everyone very well.

"We weren't really uncomfortable with out teachers before hand," said

senior Ben Bilodeau.

Some advisories have been successfull in bringing the group closer together. In one advisory, students filled out a questionnaire about the students' lives. This helped the teacher get a better idea of what the students in their advisory were interested in.

In other homerooms, a lot of hands on group work was done. For example, one group had to make towers out of index cards, while students in Ms. Smith's advisory participated in cooperative games with partners. Also, one advisory is looking into building a haunted house for other advisories to visit.

Students and faculty both seem to agree that advisories need to be given time. "In time, it will be a successful way for people to get to know their school," said Jen Keef.

According to Mrs. Rous, the effect of the new advisories can not be determined this early in the year. "It's like taking the cake out when it's only been in the oven for five minutes."



Aubree Nygren photo

Lord and Smith Plan School Trip to France

Ms. Smith and Mr. Lord meet with parents about the planned trip to France over April vacation. The trip includes visits to the beaches of Normandy, a tour of Mont Saint Michel, and a tour of Paris. The cost for the trip is approximately \$1,500 and interested students in French 3-5 should see Mr. Lord or Ms. Smith. Parents are also welcome to come as chaperones.

Drug Use Crosses Social Spectrum

by Desi Collins

A recent state-wide poll has noted that drug use among teenagers—particularly high school students, has increased from 3% to 7% in the last five years in the state of New Hampshire.

The consensus is, whether kids are clomping around in their steel-toed hick boots with their flannels, or their khaki pants, Gap shirts and penny loafers, or even long tangled hair, ripped jeans, and Dead t-shirts, you can't really tell which one of them smokes marijuana. Most likely any pot smoker cannot be stereotyped by their appearance. The big question: Are drugs a problem at Oyster River High School?

"People who abuse drugs and or alcohol do for many different reasons. We as a school provide activities in education that tell students how to have a good time without abusing substances," said Assistant Principal Bryan Lane.

Ms. Winterbottom's general sense of drug abuse is, "I don't perceive it as a big problem; however, it is hard to get a good education when one is under the influence on a daily basis."

Numerous seniors had the same insight. "After being here for four years I haven't seen much of a problem at all," said Brian Tagliaferro.

Kalim Armstrong raised the issue of increased number of students at ORHS. "Of course, seeing that there are many new people, that could mean that more people do drugs."

Jon March said, "I feel that since last year it has pretty much stayed the same; yeah, it's a problem, but you personally can choose to make it your problem as well."

"I smoke pot after school to relax," confessed a long-haired senior wearing a Grateful Dead t-shirt and blue jeans. "A lot of people have feelings about pot. They say it's very bad. But it's not as bad as they say; you don't get sick like you do with beer or hard stuff. I smoke it and my [grade point] average is between B and C."

What about police involvement? "It's a complicated issue, it's hard to draw the line of where police should get involved and where they shouldn't, considering pot is an illegal substance," Ms. Winterbottom adds.

"The realistic view is no matter where you go, drugs will be an issue," said a senior, Trisha Welsh.

Interns: Teaching and Learning

By Khriese Cook

Oyster River began another year with the addition of seven interns, from UNH. The interns are as follows: English; Joe Watts, Andy Crow, Jon Altbergs and Shelly Hull. Social Studies is Mark Ginn and Art, Cindy Lewis and Tim Lawrence.

Each intern had a chance to sit in on Oyster River classes last year, to decide if they wanted to have internships here. English intern, Joe Watts working with Mrs. Morgan said that the choice of school and teacher is based on, "a mutual feel and arrangement."

The interns are graduate students in a two year program for the educational department. The UNH students spend one year in classes aimed at classroom management, educational philosophy and psychology. The second year is spent in an internship learning hands on experience on running a efficient classroom.

The experience the intern will receive is dependent on the style of

the cooperating teacher. Mr. Perry, who had an intern last year said he, "sits in the back of the room and helps the intern," while Mr. Watts teaches his own Essentials of High School English class and observes and assists several others. In doing this he learns how to plan his time accurately in class and ways to manage students.

Interns like Mr. Tappan's intern, Mr. Altbergs use a method called "Team Teaching." Mr. Altbergs shares classroom responsibilities with his cooperating teacher, where he interacts with many students and plays a central role in several classes.

The interns meet every Thursday from four to six p.m. with their UNH supervisor and discuss methods of teaching and how they are doing in the classroom.

The interns are assessed by their cooperating teacher, UNH supervisor, and their own self evaluation.

Mr. Watts asked, "Am I choosing the right career?", when asked about his fears of coming to Oyster River.

He also fears that when he finds a job next year the school will lack sufficient resources and energy. He commented, "OR is energetic, enthusiastic and has incredible school spirit and a top-notch faculty."

Senior Laurie McDowell said, "I think interns are cool, I'm glad they are able to come to our school." Six other seniors polled shared this opinion. One senior, Brian Cartier said: "Interns don't teach the material the way it should be." He later went on to say, "They have to get experience somewhere." Eight underclassmen stated that they disapproved of interns and three spoke positively of them.

Sophomore, Jeanne-Marie Celentano said, "It's okay for interns to be there but not to take over the class."

"We all have our degrees and have completed coursework for our master's degrees. The only thing that separates us from 'real' teachers is this year," said Mr. Altbergs.

Smoking Takes Big Hit

By Rich Turcotte

From a poll taken of 50 ORHS upperclassmen, 85% of students have noticed a decrease in our school's smoking problem. In the past, our school has been plagued with the smell of cigarette smoke. But the consensus of the students and the staff is that the smell of clean air has returned to Oyster River.

"It's been really nice this year," said second year custodian, Dan Webber, "I've noticed a tremendous decrease in smoking." He also stated that "This year there are four kids as opposed to twenty that smoked in the bathrooms last year."

last year."

So why such a decrease? 62% of those surveyed felt it was because of the schools enforcement of the smoking rule. One senior said, "If you're under 18 it is against the law to smoke, so don't complain to the school for enforcing a law." Casey Colson opposed this idea. "I think it is just absurd. Time should be spent teaching the children instead of constantly watching the smokers of the student body. We need a smoking section."

When asked why she could not wait until after school to smoke, a junior said, "If you know what it is like to be addicted to cigarettes, seven and a half hours is a long time to go without one."

Assistant Principal Nancy Winterbottom said, "I'm very pleased with the decrease in smoking and think it is a better environment for everyone. I am not really sure police action is the best thing but it is important to get out the message not to smoke."

The police are definitely getting the message across with \$100 fines to underage smokers. This has outraged many students. 95% of the students surveyed felt it was a personal decision to smoke and no one else's business. Another senior said, "As long as it is outside the building I don't see it as a problem. We are not five year olds, we can make our own decisions."

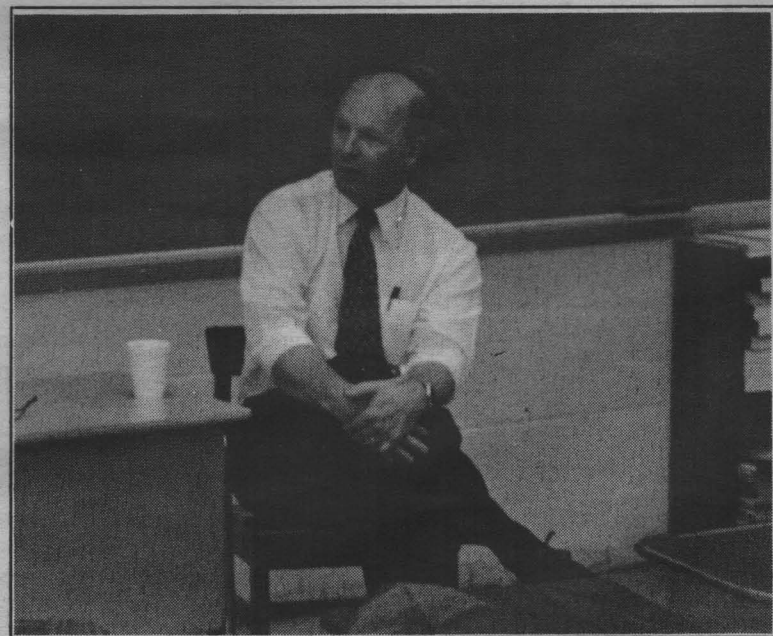
Mr. Bryan Lane Asst. Principal Still Committed to Teaching Role

By Amos Goss

"Loyal, honest and caring." These are the three words that the new assistant principal, Bryan Lane, uses to describe himself. "I'm here to help anyone who needs it," he said.

Mr. Lane has spent 16 of his 38 years teaching, coaching, and administering in schools. He is also a Pink Floyd fan, blues loving, water-skiing, and the father of two girls. His last job was the Georgetown High School principal, which is in Massachusetts. He is glad both to be here and to be away from there, "I just wasn't happy there," he says.

Mr. Lane is confident that he can help people but what can't he fix here at ORHS? "I see my job as a problem solver, if I can help find solutions than I am happy." According to Mr. Lane scheduling can be a problem, "If someone wanted to take a class in Dover they wouldn't be able to take it unless the classes they took here fit in with the Dover time slot. He feels that overcrowding is a problem, "When we look to the future, at some point, we are going to have to increase class



Mike Beland Photo

Assistant Principal Lane ponders questions during a Journalism class interview.

space and decrease congestion in the hallway.

According to Mr. Lane, "Mrs. Brown, more than anyone, has helped me along the way because she has shown complete faith in me and is willing to listen to my ideas."

The school has accepted the change in different ways. "He is strict but, it's something the school needs right now," said Senior Ben Bilodeau. Jun-

ior Vice president Katie Plimpton said, "His 'stick to the rule' style is automatically going to put some people on his back."

The students as a whole have accepted the new style of Mr. Lane. Mr. Lane has accepted the different surroundings of ORHS. "The first three weeks of school have been the best three weeks I've had in two years," Mr. Lane pauses, "and that's a fact."

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Opinions & Editorials

Issue 1

October 25, 1995

Editorial

Editorials reflect the views and opinions of the MOR editing staff.

We see her at our games, our concerts, and often during the school day. While she walks down the hall, she is seen talking to students with a pleasant voice. You are now asking, who is this person? The person we are talking about is Shirley Thompson, a school board member.

We here at the MOR feel that it is necessary to let Ms. Thompson know how valuable an asset she is to the students of our district. When we talk about the members of the board, not many students have any idea who any of them are, except for Ms. Thompson.

At our games she is not just a fan, but she is a loud one as well, while she vocally supports the program which she has dedicated her life to. We recently spoke with Ms. Thompson and she told us that "in order to know how to vote, it is necessary to have a first-hand look at how it will affect the lives of the students."

We believe that this statement of gratification to Ms. Thompson is long overdue because she has done so much for us and continues to do so. It is not often that someone of a high authority in any community is not only willing, but wanting to help make students' lives and education better. We here at Oyster River are fortunate to have this type of person serving on the school board.

Those students of Oyster River who play soccer, baseball, basketball, and volleyball will next year be able to have new scoreboards. Students for years have asked why we could not have new scoreboards and Ms. Thompson took the initiative and gave to us what we wanted. Ms. Thompson got us two scoreboards provided without taxpayers' money through the Coca-Cola Company. We believe that it is this type of action that exemplifies Ms. Thompson's attentiveness to students' needs.

We, the students, greatly appreciate having someone who cares about us very much and has faith in us; unlike the people who just read our statistics and say that we are "not up to par." Ms. Thompson has repeatedly told us to inform students that if we have any ideas or questions about anything that she is eager to listen.

Hey, Am I Sitting Here?

I believe it was not more than a couple of weeks ago when I was sitting in the cafe during seventh period (for all the confusion this may cause, seventh is between sixth and eighth lunches where the cafeteria is pretty much empty) enjoying my lunch, studying some French, and chatting with a friend. For some reason or another, perhaps it was an activity day, or advisory day, or OREW activity day, or short Wednesday day or just some other shortened period day, seventh period (I like to call it 'half-time') was noticeably shortened, and the bell rang signaling the start of eighth lunch.

Aaron Major

This single action of mediocre importance started a stampede of students—all shapes and sizes—towards the lunch line. No problem, thought I, and I continued to eat, study, and chat with Friend. Now just to give you a frame of reference, I was seated at a table against the wall near the door, which is not exactly a private booth, but hey it's the best you can get. Again, this was all fine and well, except that five minutes after the bell had finished ringing, the table I was seated at was swarmed by total strangers, people who's faces I may have seen in a fleeting glimpse as they passed me in the hall, but with whom I was not inclined to socialize with at that moment.

Now, I'm not anti-social, and I don't mind talking to people, but let's be a little realistic here. I mean, there was even a HUGE table just sitting in the middle of the cafe—and oasis of emptiness if you will—that for some reason was plagued with a hidden curse that only the natives of eighth lunch dare talk about in hushed tones. How many times have you walked into a restaurant, one where you seat your-

self, seen a dozen empty tables, and then grab the one that already has two people sitting at it. In this country it's considered a little rude by most people, in other countries it's punishable by death.

Have people already become spiritually and emotionally attached to their seating this early in the year? I mean, do you guys get nauseated by your food if your not at your "special little table." If that's truly the case, hey I'll get out of your way no problem. Now, granted that over time people have traditionally had a certain place in the cafe, but I'm sure that if one day somebody else were there already, they could swallow their anguish and move on.

Of course, there is some potential profit in all of this. How does ten bucks a week sound for a table, or you can take the season special for a super low price of only fifty bucks for the year? Nobody has official or even unofficial ownership of the tables in this school (that are students, of course) so it would be nice if we could all restrain our primitive territorialisms (if anyone "marks" any of the tables to claim them as their own I will be very upset) and go on with our lives. So if you need a place to sit, please don't just come bantering over with your swarm of colleagues like we're invading your space. It would at least be nice to hear a "is anyone sitting here," or "do you mind if I sit here," so that I know that you recognize my existence. If that's far to much trouble, there's always the accursed table of emptiness. Besides, a change of view may do everyone good.

Aaron Major is Editor-in-Chief of Mouth of the River



Only a few weeks together and it's all sweetness and love!

Who "Powers" Oyster River?

The majority of ORHS students are aware of the high involvement of community members in the Oyster River School District. Members of the community serve the students in several different ways, whether it be with OREW, ORYA, ORE, Boosters Club, or with several other groups. I believe most students are quite thankful for the active role the community plays to make the areas of learning at Oyster River more diverse and at the same time more fun.

Mike Beland

We hear our parents talking about long school board hearings, budget hearings, and other assemblies for the adult community, meetings not geared towards students. But because of the ORHS Senate and the student representative to the school board, Andrew Evans, students can now submit their ideas to the school board, giving board members a first-hand look at students' feelings.

With the relations between board members and students evolving, I feel that one area of communication is lacking; many students in our school

have no idea who John Powers is. I know who Superintendent Powers is; I also respect what he has done to give students a louder voice in the school community. However, I do not think that Mr. Powers is in the schools enough and even when he is, I do not think that he takes advantage of opportunities to communicate with students.

On one occasion, Mr. Powers had a great opportunity to interact with me, rather than getting into a conversation, all he gave me was a quick "fine" after I asked how he was doing. Conversation would have given him a chance to hear what was on my mind about how school was going, unfortunately he missed this input. No student has ever told me that they have had an in-depth conversation with Mr. Powers; I realize that it is impossible for Mr. Powers to interact with everyone in all of the schools. However, I think he would do all of us, including himself, a better service if he were to interact with us more.

I know that Mr. Powers's job is to "run the ship," but even the president tries to be personable with his constituents so he is aware of what is on the

mind of the people. Mr. Powers should do this not only because he would learn more about us, but we would also learn more about him, the person who is at the head of our education.

A first step in learning more about each other could be Mr. Powers's attendance at sporting events, Senate meetings, and other functions. Mr. Powers would learn about the real students of Oyster River, instead of just knowing us through our statistics.

The intent of this commentary is not to criticize Mr. Powers, but to give him an idea of what the students want. If it were not for a superintendent such as he, who values a student's ability to communicate their thoughts and concerns in an articulate way, I would not have this opportunity to voice my opinion with the intent of making our school better as a whole. I hope that this will become the basis of a better relationship between the superintendent and the student body of Oyster River High School.

Mike Beland is the Opinion / Editorial Editor of Mouth of the River

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE ORHS COMMUNITY

If you would like to express your views and opinions on a school-related topic, send your Commentary or Letters to the Editor to the *Mouth of the River*. Submissions can be given to Mr. Tappan, or left in his mailbox. All entries fall under the discretion of the editing staff. The MOR editing staff reserves the right not to print any submissions it feels are written solely for self-promotion or contain explicit language, violence, or sexual content.

All opinions and views presented by the authors are not necessarily shared by the MOR staff, or its editors.

What is One Memory that You have of Brian Swift?

Compiled by Kelly Watson
News Editor

"I remember Swiftly when listening to the *Strange Brew* soundtrack on the good old Ranger bus."
—Chris Merenda

"A good memory I have of Brian Swift is when he and I and a bunch of other friends played roller hockey in Durham. Brian played with one arm and skated around us like we were standing still. He was simply amazing. I will never forget that day." —Andy Neubauer

"Wow, how can I pick just one-awesome memory of Brian Swift. They all are. He had a way with people, whether it was making them laugh or even just hangin' out. He always made me feel good about things. However, there is one thing that sticks out. It was in 8th grade, Brian, Dwayne, Kelly and I were all in the same class. We had just watched *The Wave* in Mrs. Rief's class and were given little index cards. The four of us got cards with a blue dot on them. For the entire week, the four of us could only communicate with each other. We had so much fun, talking and laughing while everyone else had to do work. I have never met a stronger person and I doubt I will." —Laurie McDowell

"I remember once in 5th grade. I went over to Brian's house after school. Brian asked me what I wanted to do and I said I didn't know. So he said, "Okay, we'll play baseball," and for the next two hours we did. I finally told him I was tired and didn't want to play baseball anymore. So he said, "Okay, we'll play street hockey," and we did, until I went home!" —Anne Gault

"Naaaa, Da, Da, Da" —Jason Turgeon

"I have many fond memories of Brian, because of the person he was, caring, kind and always ready for a joke or for fun. Some of the best memories I have is hanging out with Brian, Sean, Tag, and Lesley at UNH hockey games. We all waited to see if Brian's 50/50 ticket would win again. Oh, and who can forget, "Kelly, forehead!" I'll never hear the end of that." —Kelly Watson

"In Algebra class last year, every once in a while Ms. Szot would hand out Starburst. Every time she did, Swooft would take the wrapper and fold it back up so that it looked as if it had never been opened. At the end of class, he would leave it on a random desk. We'd wait around just long enough to see the look on some kids face, when they realized that the treasure on their desk was nothing more than waxed paper. Then one day, I walked into class and found a nice juicy Starburst on my desk. My salivary glands ceased their churning, when I picked up the empty wrapper. After that, I never found his talent with candy wrapper. Quite so amusing." —Chris Wesley

"I remember last year when Brian would wear his blue wool hat that said "Brian" on the front with his ever lasting smirk on his face, and also scaring him in the Volvo with Sean. So back off!" —Matt DeRocchi

"I'll always remember Brian's genuine smile that helped me get through Chemistry class all last year!" —Sara Smith

"When I remember my early years of adolescents I think of Naaa U - a popular phrase that would stick with our class for the following years. Of all the kids in my class Swiftly was the last person I expected to master the Naaa language. Throughout my junior year Brian would meet with me weekly to try to teach me how to say Naaa- he never seemed to think I mastered it—I will continue practicing with Swiftly." —Amy Howell

"Specific events are always easy to remember with Brian Swift. He made everything memorable. The thing that I will never forget him for is the way that he pulled everyone through the last few months of his life. Although his friends helped him, Brian and his family helped to prepare everyone for his death. That kind of love will never be forgotten in my life." —Brad Taylor

"One of the joys of being in elementary school was tormenting the boys. Whenever we got the chance- we wanted in, on their forts, their huddles, and especially their games. Brian was one of those boys who never heard the end of the girls pleading to play kickball or football. He never had to be the pitcher or the quarterback, but was a field player. The funny thing is that he was never afraid to hit the girls with the ball, (no matter how hard). I guess he kind of figured - if they're gonna play, they're gonna have to deal with it. Thankfully we're better players today because of it." —Lesley Follensbee

"In little league, Brian Swift was not only a little league hero, but he also was the type of person I wanted to be. In times when my performance was not good, Brian told me that baseball wasn't the most important part of my life. This is what Brian knew long before most people-- the parts in life which are significant. This lesson that Brian taught me is what I am going to try to instill in my children, to remember what parts of life are important— family, friends, a good time, and most importantly, living." —Mike Beland

"I'll definitely miss fishing with Brian. I don't know why, we never caught anything." —Sean Moriarty



GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL from page 8

game."

One of the reasons for their success is the two new sets incorporated into the offense. The sets are the "quick-set", and "shoot". These sets are quicker, so it is harder for their opponents to block. It allows less time for the other team to react, and speeds up the offense.

As the team enters the playoffs this week their biggest opponent should be Nashua who almost had an unblemished season as well. Nashua and O.R. do not play each other during the regular season, but have succeeded in meeting each other in the last 3 final matches. The volleyball attributes it's spirit to those fans who come to cheer. This week there should be plenty of fans at the "big" game, where everyone is expecting another victory.

NEASC

cont. from page 2

mittees (such as; Philosophy, Facilities, Media Services, and Student Services) will begin their work, assessing the various aspects of the school.

"Student involvement won't really begin until April," said Ms. McKay. The Self Assessment Committee does plan to use student input highly at that point, using surveys and student questionnaires to find out student opinions.

In April of 1997, Oyster River High School will be subjected to an evaluation done by a committee from the NEASC. The committee's evaluation will determine whether or not ORHS receives its recognition as an accredited high school.

The last accreditation evaluation was done in 1987, and the school is required to renew its accreditation at least once every ten years. Although the last evaluation committee did have recommendations for the school to improve it overall, the Self Assessment Committee will not base their own evaluation on the last NEASC report, according to Mrs. McKay. Instead, she says, the committees will be looking for ways to change the school for the future.

Commentary

Foul Language Pollutes the Halls of ORHS

Four-letter words and their two-syllable cousins pepper the speech of people at sporting events, in restaurants, in airports, on the sidewalk, and in the hallways of schools, including ORHS.

Richard Tappan

Movies need a certain quota of obscene words to get the rating up to at least a PG-13 to appeal to teenage audiences. Few ORHS students would want to admit to liking a G-rated movie.

I have heard many students here defend obscenity as an expression of free speech. Any attempt to control foul language is attacked as "censorship."

One of the most creative defenses I have heard from a few students is that vulgarity is somehow "honest." Another common defense is that such language "doesn't really mean anything," and that "everybody does it, so it is so common that it is no longer a 'big deal.'"

Underlying all of this tolerance of obscene language is a common theme: that words don't have any power; that we cannot be held accountable for mere language.

If we are really honest about this subject, I believe that we have to accept that words have immense power. Just imagine how students would feel about teachers if they heard them using coarse language?

Consider this warning to people who would think of becoming teachers:

"Not many of you should presume to be teachers because you know that

we who teach will be judged more strictly."

This was written by the Apostle James nearly 2,000 years ago. He went on to talk about how careful people should be with what they say.

"When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are large, they are steered by a very small rudder. . . Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider that a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire. . . It corrupts the whole person."

If we honestly believe that words don't matter, then why would teenagers hold adults responsible for damaging them by verbal abuse? People often say that their bad language "doesn't matter," but bad language directed at them does.

Much of the bad language I hear uttered in our halls is done without thinking and isn't conscious putdowns or intimidation. However, would a teenager have respect for an adult who degraded and humiliated people around them and said, "Oh, sorry. I wasn't thinking." We expect responsible people to think.

Many of you students have already started parttime jobs or have had summer jobs where you are subjected to constant vulgarity. The dirty language and traded insults are often presented as "humor" or "only in fun," but the negative tone, once established, is often nearly impossible to reverse. Few people can muster a positive attitude about themselves and their surround-

ings when the air is polluted with dirty language.

If adults are held up to a standard of decency and respect, what of teenagers? Adults can set an example, and few students would deny that the Oyster River faculty members do set a good example of positive and professional language. However, example doesn't seem to be enough in a world where "cool" movie stars, sports heroes and rock stars turn the air blue with verbal pollution.

I have been proud to say I teach in the Oyster River District, but a few aspects of student disrespect have disturbed me over the years. The biggest concern I have is the atmosphere created in hallways by bad language. I confront it when I hear it, but I am sick of it. I will ask the Senate to put the item on the agenda because I believe that solutions to problems have to come from all of us, not just authorities.

This commentary is just a first step in trying to make people think. No matter how people try to defend bad language, it is bad, and all we are doing is "dissing" each other every time a \$%&# blows into the air like a foul smell.

Richard Tappan is an English teacher here at ORHS, and is the faculty advisor to Mouth of the River.



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Evans Student Voice To School Board

By Micael Beland
Op / Ed Editor

"I would be honored to work alongside Andrew Evans in any committee," said school board member Shirley Thompson about the student school board representative, senior Andrew Evans.

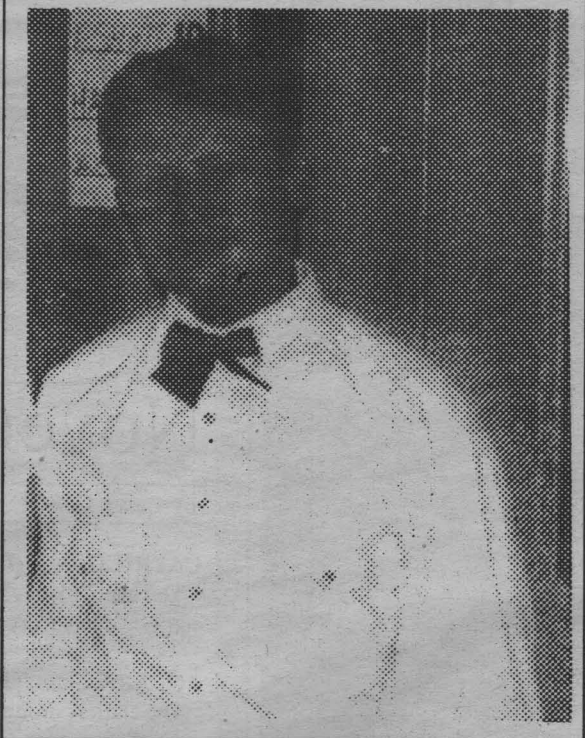
Drew was elected to this office in the spring of 1995 by the student body. He is a non-voting member on the board, however, "whenever an issue comes up concerning the students of any school, I put my two cents in," said Evans.

On the agenda for board members is the need for more facilities in the high school in the next couple of years; this and other topics, such as classroom life, are the questions that are addressed by the board to Drew because he is "closer to students than they are", according to Drew. Ms. Th-

ompson believes Drew "has played a very active role with these issues."

In order to present these views to the administration, Drew feels that "students should definitely present to me their ideas for the school board because it is very difficult for me to ask everyone in the school their opinions. I want students to know I will give them a voice to the board. I also want students to ask me questions about what I am doing."

Drew believes the reason for the



good relations between the school and the administration is the school Senate. He said that the Senate "is opening the school to the community."

Culture Brought to You by OREW

By Zeb Cruikshank

Oyster River High School was introduced to the blues on Thursday, September 28 when OREW brought TJ Wheeler and the Smokers into our gymnasium.

In his 23 years as a professional musician, TJ has performed in front of 75,000 kids in the United States and Europe, jammed with blues legends like Muddy Waters and Albert Collins, and learned from Delta blues greats like Furry Lewis and Bukka White. You might ask, "Why is a blues musician coming to ORHS?" TJ says he came to make sure people understand that the origin of blues dates all the way back to times of black slavery, and blues didn't start with Eric Clapton.

TJ Wheeler and other OREW assemblies are made possible through fundraising and support from parents. Nancy Sawyer, the organizer for OREW events, says that she hoped students would learn things that they wouldn't learn in a classroom. She also said the presentation was just for fun. Mrs. Sawyer welcomes student's ideas for future OREW assemblies.

There were a variety of different student reactions to the assembly including "cool", "interesting", "too slow", and "the best thing I've ever done at school." The New Hampshire Theatre Project and OREW are bringing "Shakespeare Unplugged" to ORHS on October 16, 18, 20, 25, and 26. Actor Dennis McLaughlin and actress Ri Walton will be working with Mythology and Drama and Acting classes, as well as an after-school class to try and show that physical acting is the most effective method of showing emotion.



photo courtesy yearbook staff

TJ Wheeler, world-renound blues-man, plays to a school wide assembly. Wheeler was brought to ORHS thanks to funds provided by the Oyster River Education Workshop (OREW).

Faculty Begins NEASC Self-Assessment

By Aaron Major
Editor-in-Chief

Over the next year and a half, faculty, administration, and the rest of the school community will begin an in-depth self-assessment of the school, which is being led by Co-Chairpersons Phyllis McKay and Ellen Perry. Currently underway, a steering committee, which includes faculty members Joan Schaeffer, Richard Tappan, Kathy

Kentner, and Ray Celentano have been working to finish up the school's "Statement of Purpose," or school philosophy. "We're a little behind schedule," admitted Mrs. Perry, "but we hope that the work done with the Vision Statement last year will put us back on track." The Statement of Purpose committee hopes to have a completed document by December.

On Wednesday October 11, Joe Daisy, a representative of the New

England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), spoke with faculty members after school to begin preparations for the evaluation committee's visit, and "just to make sure we're on the right track," said Self Assessment Committee Co-Chairperson Ellen Perry.

Once the Statement of Purpose has been completed, the other sub-com-

NEASC cont. on page 6

Through Our Stomachs?

By Aaron Major
Editor-in-Chief

In a memo sent to faculty homeroom advisors, Pat Laska, the School Food Service Director, noted that "On Tuesdays, after the extended activity period, our lunch count was off by 50 compared to other days."

According to Loretta Langley, who works with the School Food Service, the government only subsidizes purchases of combo lunch meals, of which the count has been down by around fifty on advisory Tuesdays. This, in turn, means that the lunch program receives less money for equipment, maintenance, and salaries.

"I never eat afterwards," said senior Karen Gowell. "We get bagels, pizza, muffins—I don't think I've ever eaten lunch on a Tuesday."

In fact, many homeroom advisories have food on Tuesdays, but some question has arisen as to whether or not this is helping to bring advisory groups closer together. "People just bring in food, and they eat, then they leave," said senior Shao-Yen Lin, who is in Ms. Sheldon's advisory. "The people in our homeroom are really quiet," he added.

"In my class it works completely opposite, because everyone tries to rush through the activities to get to the food," said senior Colin Murphy, who goes to Ms. Smith's room on Tuesdays.

Some students and faculty do feel, however, that serving food during the advisory period has helped bring groups together. According to sophomore Amanda Thomas (who is in Mr. Stoykovich's advisory), eating food is more important for group unity than

doing activities.

Homeroom advisor Louise Stoddard agreed, saying that it will "start out being the biggest part, but it will end up not being as important as time goes on."

Advisor Susan Smith also agreed, saying that "it's probably the one activity that [the students] enjoy."

The food service staff would like to find a way to find a solution to the cafeteria's loss in sales and still allow the homerooms to be independent. "I don't want the kids to think that we don't want them to have this, but we should have known first," said Langley.

One suggestion, brought up by Pat Laska in her memo would be to have advisories purchase food from the cafeteria. "Has anyone considered purchasing food from school food service?" she wrote. "We are here for

"We get bagels, pizza, muffins—I don't think I've ever eaten lunch on a Tuesday."

--Senior Karen Gowell

you."

Ms. Smith thinks that could work. "If the prices were right then people would be willing to buy from them."

She also thinks that the homeroom advisors need to sit down and talk to the lunch personnel to find out the exact effect on food services. Ms. Stoddard would also like to discuss options so that the advisories do not have to give up their privileges.

Senior Jim Douglas, who is in an advisory where students bring food in from home that they made themselves said "I'd rather get [food] here, but they'd have to be a lot cheaper."

Freshman Alexis Carter did not agree saying that it's "more fun to have people make food rather than buy it."

"This is an experimental year," said Ms. Smith, "so you always run into some problems."

Mouth of the River

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Gibson, Whalen to Serve as P.O. Advisors

By Ben Valentine

Mr. Whalen and Ms. Gibson have volunteered to become coordinators for Peer Outreach, replacing Ms. Tolson and Ms. Houseman.

If no faculty members had come forward, Peer Outreach would not have had a program for the first time in its seven-year history at Oyster River.

The Peer Outreach program teaches students to help peers build self-esteem and meet other students they wouldn't normally meet through classes. Members also deal with issues of alcohol and drug abuse, stress management, and school, family, and peer-related problems.

However many students do not take advantage of the services offered by Peer Outreach. "I haven't seen any of the affects of Peer Outreach within the school's vicinity," said junior Ryan Pemberton.

In a survey eight students from each of grades 10, 11, and 12 were asked if they had been affected by Peer Outreach. Not one of them said that they had. "It's their choice," said Tim McGarry, sophomore Peer Outreach member. "They have to come to us."

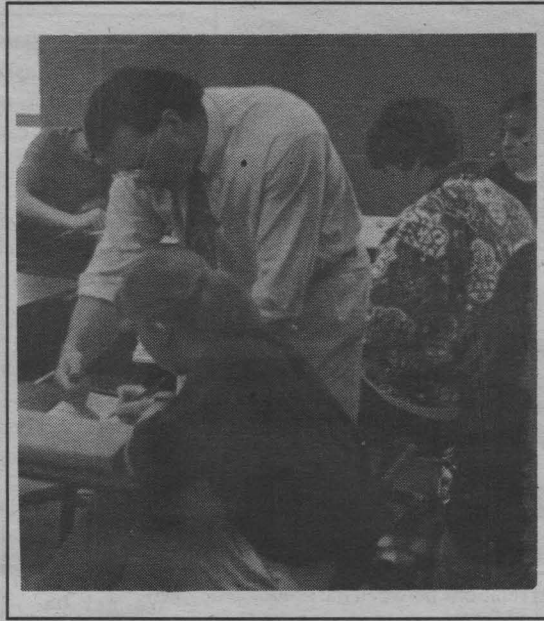
According to Ms. Gibson, there are currently 12 members of peer out-

reach, and 8 new members are admitted each year. The new members are required to attend a workshop in Peterborough, New Hampshire where they learn problem solving and interpersonal skills.

There are many less tangible advantages to working with students in Peer Outreach. "You get to know students on a different level," said Mr. Whalen.

Ms. Gibson also added, "You learn to be more sympathetic toward students, and learn that there is more to them than their studies."

One Peer Outreach member, senior Khristee Cook, noticed a distinct change this year. "There is more in-



File Photo

Math teacher Brendon Whalen now doubles as an Advisor to Peer Outreach

terest and enthusiasm," she said. "We're getting a lot more done. Last year we had a lot of seniors who didn't care because they were graduating," said senior member, Holly Brown. "But, I care."

Sophomore Dance Nets \$250

Attendance declines from previous years

By Adam Crawford

The sophomore dance on Sept. 22 had an attendance of approximately 150 students and raised \$250. The students had peers as their DJs who were two juniors, Greg Sterndale and Nate Loomis. Assistant Principal Nancy Winterbottom said that most people were "dancing around, some were sitting but, many others were doing their own thing."

In recent years dances have often not made very much money for their classes. According to Guidance Counselor Phyllis MacKay, two expenses have made it hard to make a profit. "I believe that DJs have cost at least \$250 and it costs \$90 to hire a police officer for the night." The combined expenses mean that the dances have to bring in over \$340. With attendance of only 150 students, the money taken at the door would be \$450, a profit of only \$110 on ticket sales.

Ms. Brown said that "this year's attendance was probably better than last year's" for the first dance. She observed that more freshmen came than sophomores. She also said that only a few juniors or seniors came.

A number of teachers have commented that attendance at dances has declined in the last couple of years.

Mrs. Dodge said, "The cafeteria used to be filled with whirling dervishes, but now the dancers occupy only half the floor." (For a definition of "whirling dervishes," see an english or history teacher!)

Many people were asked for reasons why they did not attend dances. The most common reasons stated were: "The dances aren't 'special' or 'dressy'"; the rules prohibiting leaving and coming back and other restrictions. The most common reason stated was dissatisfaction with the music chosen. Ms. Hopkins, the chaperone of the dance, said: "I saw Brian Trojan doing special moves and Tony Reznikov took off his shirt and waved it over his head as he danced."

"They had a lot of fun," Ms. Winterbottom said, "There were a few problems that were handled easily. Some students were smoking in the woods, but the police officer took care of that." Parents brought the food to be sold.

Dave Jerard, president of the sophomore class, said the dance was great. "We made \$250, everyone was having a great time spending their money. We had a lot of support from other classes, especially the senior class, which was a big help."

Students Respond To Activity Period

By Rebecca Soderholm

Is the activity period living up to its potential of creating a better community within the school? In a poll of 48 students, including freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors, only 33% believe that the school's community has improved while 46% don't even know what the purpose of the period is.

On September 22 the activity period was used to hold an activity fair, during which students were invited to the library, cafeteria, and gym to learn about, and possibly sign up for, the many after-school activities that OR offers.

Some of the activities offered at the fair were: the French Club, Community Service, Student Senate, and Peer Outreach. Mrs. Gibson, one of the advisors for Peer Outreach, said that "quite a few new people" signed up for it during the fair.

Mrs. Winterbottom said that the fair was "chaotic" and "some students, especially underclassmen, didn't quite know what to do." Of the students polled 55% thought that the fair was successful, 33% didn't, and 12% were undecided.

Some ideas for future activities are assemblies, concerts, speakers, and pep rallies, although most of it is unplanned.

School Population Over Last Rated Limit

By Heather Jacques

"One of the biggest problems with this school is the hallways are way too crowded," said sophomore Emily Baker.

Last year, there were 588 students, and this year there are 619; an increase of 32 students. The school board had planned for 603 students this year, and has predicted an increase to 660 stu-

dents next year. Before the elevator and two Special Ed rooms, the school's rated maximum capacity was 607 students back in 1986. Although New Hampshire discontinued the NESC evaluation, that's 12 students too many. There has been discussion of a new school in two or three years. There may even be a vote in May for residents of all districts about the building of a new school.

Principal Anne Brown feels the

school is overcrowded "with more to come." She feels class sizes are too large. "The average classroom has about 23-25 students. There is lack of individual attention. In my opinion, it should be 18-20 students."

"I don't feel the school is overcrowded this year but I believe it will be in years to come," said Assistant Principal Bryan Lane. He thinks that locker space and student parking is going to become a bigger problem.

November Horoscope

by Casey Colson

CAPRICORN (December 22- January 19)

You energy is high this month. You have a certain aura around you that just can't be denied. Your lucky numbers are 12 and 24.

AQUARIUS (January 20- February 19)

The endless drought you call your love life will soon end abruptly when that special someone slaps you in the face with some good lovin'. Your lucky numbers are 15 and 19.

PISCES (February 20- March 20)

Don't pop any zits—they have feelings, too. This will not only lead to a prettier face later on in life, but it will also build your ability to resist temptation. Your lucky days are 6 and 9.

ARIES (March 21- April 19)

The stars tell me that the grapes of occasion will be plentiful this month. Success will spank you upside the bottom. Your lucky numbers are 2 and 13.

TAURUS (April 20- May 20)

Ask that special someone out t-t-t-today, Junior! Learn to love polyester all over again and don't forget your vitamins. Your lucky numbers are 17 and 25.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20)

A nice glass of Poland Springs will make you forget about all your worries. Remember to look out for number one and, go ahead, eat that extra cupcake! Your lucky numbers are 4 and 7.

CANCER (June 21- July 22)

There will be a great deal of money for you in the future. You will sit back and enjoy it. Your lucky numbers are 15 and 16.

LEO (July 23- August 22)

On the dawn of the first new moon a new lover will come into your life. But don't get too involved, for it will only last a short time. Your lucky numbers are 3 and 8.

VIRGO (August 23- September 22)

Like a VIRGO touched for the very first time your new love will bring you happiness. Your lucky numbers are 1 and 31.

LIBRA (September 23- October 22)

As you snuggle up with your Sheets, you will hear the purple cow that moos at midnight on the forth day of reckoning. Your life will soon take a turn for the better. Your lucky numbers are 6 and 23.

SCORPIO (October 23- November 22)


With the onset of the dark winter months be sure to soak in as much natural light as possible, for if you don't you will soon enter a down spiral into depression. Your lucky numbers are 5 and 17.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 22)

You have a repelling aura around you! You need to find that Aquarius to get you out of that social 'black hole'. Your lucky numbers are 56 and 87 (Sorry, don't talk to me, talk to the stars).

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First Year For Golf Team Proves to be Rewarding

By Jeremy Gasowski

The Bobcats traveled up to Sunapee October 5th for the State Championships. "It's a good feeling to be in the state championships for a first year team," said Golf coach Guy Smith.

The team placed 6th out of 10 teams battling for a team title. The bobcats were all very pleased with their outcome. Jesse Smith and Eliot Jenkins earned a chance to go back Saturday October 7th for the individual title. Jesse and Eliot both made the cut of 80 to represent the school again for the Individual Championships.

Jesse Smith placed 6th overall in the state out of 24 golfers with Eliot Jenkins behind him in 16th.

Many Bobcat golfers had no team to play on last year so over the summer the parents of the golfers on the team worked hard by coming up with a fool proof plan to present to the school board to land a golf team a ORHS. With help from parents who provided transportation and Coach Guy Smith who wasn't getting paid, the team operated without a budget and were given the chance to shoot for a team championship title. "Everybody helps out as much as they can," said junior golfer Sean Burke "Mr. Bratt provided a mini-van for the golf team and many of the parents also helped out with rides and getting us to the matches."

"We had great season for a 1st year team," said Jesse Smith, "Many of the golfers had never played in tournaments before."

The team, led by Co-captains Keith Friel and Tom Getz, had an excellent record of 21-6. Their season was a hard fought battle with many teams including Con-Val and Farmington. Many of their loses against Con-Val,

Framington and Saint Thomas were only decided by one or two shots. "Golf is a team sport, but it is more individual. You have to do good yourself and not just rely on your teammates," Said senior Tom Getz.

Team leaders Jesse Smith, Tom Getz, Eliot Jenkins and Greg Friel worked hard in each match they played and kept the bobcats within reach of a state title.

"Even though I am not going to be around next year, I know that we will be even better. We have a lot of good players coming up and there is another good chance that we will have a chance to win the State title" Said Co-captain Tom Getz.

The Bobcats most likely will have to operate under the same circumstances next year as they did this year. "We will try to put them onto the budget for next season, but chances are that no new teams (including golf) will be added until construction is done at the middle school," said Mr. Nichols, the Athletic Director at ORHS.

Cross Country Races to Final Meet

By Jenn Hogan



The Boys Cross Country teams this year seem pretty strong and ready to win.

The team is made up of fourteen members, seven of those are varsity. The varsity team members are Jon March, Jeff MacLane, Matt Fox, Jim Tibideau, Kevin Rock, Gregg Evans and Ben Carr.

Team captain, Jon March, said "the team is very strong and very focused." Most of the runners are second year runners and many repeat runners that have returned make the team strong by bring in their talent. All the runners are working on improving their own personal race. March said that Mr. Byrnes is a good coach and won't give a practice he won't do himself.

Mr. Byrnes said that the team is making definite progress and the team is more connected each other this year. As a coach one of his main goals is to

have a good season, enjoy the sport and make it to states. On of the main goals as a runner Mr. Byrnes said "That mental preparation is a big part of running, when they believe that, they will succeed."

The Boys team has not cracked the top ten in state standings, but they are in the top five in Class I. The number one team is Timberline in Class I. The whole team's detination is to go to states. The team are hoping that they will win and break the top five(states). If the whole team does not make states, then the top twenty-five runners from the New Hampshire schools will go independently. Jon March and Jeff MacLane are the prospects from ORHS to be runners at states.

The Girls Cross Country Team is off to a running start and, as of today the team is fourth in the state.

The this year's team has nineteen members. The top runners for the girl's team are Beth Kraft, Katlin Gregg, Cristy Northrup, Kristen Cosby, Britta Hult, Amanda Crocker, Irean Jenkins and Nicole Wojick.

There are many underclass runners its year and because of that they will make up the future cross country teams Kraft has very high hopes for the girl's team.

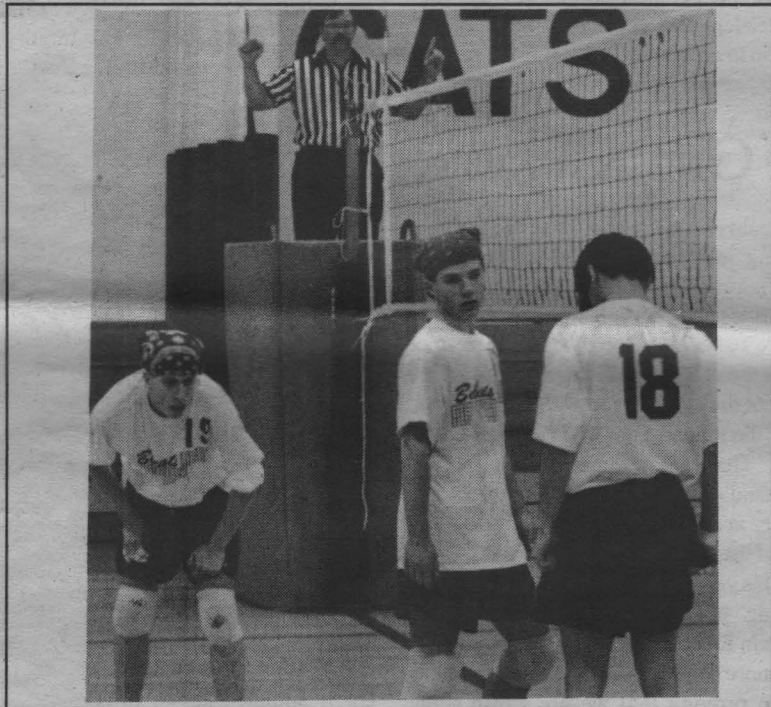
Kraft would like to see the team get second in the class meet and then win the state meet.

This is the largest team the girls have had in a while. Beth said when asked if the popularity of cross country had gone up said that "It is popular for a while then it gets small again. It goes in waves."

Beth said that Coach Gephart is amazing so dedicated to the team and has very high expectations for the girls. As of today she is in Japan running for herself and was not available for comment.

Coach Gepahart is a runner herself and she is eleventh in the nation and fourth in the New England area. She is a Tri-athlete herself. Through her coaching the team has made it to the top and hopes to make it there again.

The teams are strong and hope to keep running.



Kyle Francis photo

Stefan Cline, Peter Beck, and Carl Seid await the serve.

Field Hockey Loses to Sanford

By Lori Neubauer

The girls field hockey team fell to Sanford on Wednesday with a score of 6-0. The loss ended the team's season with a 1-13 record.

The team received its first win on September 30th against Milford with a final score of 1-0. Not only was it the first win but the first goal scored by Christy Tryder.

The team was lead by Co-captains Valenka Valenzuela and Rebecca England. Valenzuela's strong passes to forward wing Catherine Gault moved the ball up field for countless shots made by Michelle Waleryszak. Abbi Green lead the defense with strong drives up the center.

Marriah Shields, a first year goalie, captured her first shut-out. Tryder's skills gave her the first score of the season.

"Our team was really together and we all worked as a team for the first time this season." Tryder commented after the win.

First year coach, Sharon Tucker has a lot of faith in her team. "The girls have a lot of spirit and faithfulness to the team." The team has bonded over time and are improving with every practice.

The coach was forced to split the girls up into a JV / Varsity program. Usually the field hockey program is one team, but with this year's roster the girls needed to split up to get adequate playing time. The girls still consider themselves one team and practice together and watch each other's games.

Co-captain Valenka Valenzuela sees the team as a young team that will improve with more experience. "We



photo courtesy of yearbook

Field Hockey players face off

need more work on skills and communication. We need to learn how to work together." Valenzuela also believes that the team is getting stronger with every practice.

Co-captain Rebecca England said, "This year's team doesn't have the abilities as past teams, so we're all concentrating more on having fun, instead of winning."

Boys' Volleyball Places Second

By Kyle Francis

The boys' volleyball team lost to Pinkerton in the final match of their tourney on Saturday October 21st. The Bobcats rallied against Mascenic, Derryfield, and Souhegan in the preliminaries to face Pinkerton in the finals. The tournament lasted all day and the bobcats came out on top although they were not the champions. Coming from a losing season only 2 years ago the bobcats have proved that hard work and diligence can take you far.

The team won their last 5 matches to head into the tournament in a top seed. The Bobcats won 15-8, 9-15, 7-15, 15-12, 15-13 against Derryfield earlier in the season. After the win Coach Dave Carson said, "It's about time." The home game was the first following a long and difficult road trip. Dave Carson later said about the five game legth, "The second is so key." After winning the first game OR lost the next two. Derryfield only needed one more game to win but OR came back. After the game Capt. Stefan Cline said about the final game, "I thought I wasn't going to be into it." Coach Carson substituted Stefan, putting in Pat Houle. The very next chance he got he put him back in, "It woke me up," said Stefan afterwards.

On Oct 12 the Bobcats beat Mascenic 15-8, 9-15, 13-15, 15-10, 15-8. OR has a problem winning the second game of a match. Capt. Carl

Seid said that in the second game "We play as if we already won." The problem was that they played like "a roller coaster." During the last game against Mascenic the Bobcats went up 11-0 at the start. Then the "roller coaster" came in again and Mascenic scored eight points in the time it took OR to get just one. Coach said, "We got tired it should have been 15-0."

On Saturday Sept. 30 the volleyball team came in fourth out of five in a tournament at Concord Academy. Pinkerton won with a 4-0 record, three teams went 2-2, and Concord Academy lost every game. Oyster River was put in fourth place overall based on games won per match. After two wins starting setter Ben Rous left the tournament early and freshman Pat Houle played in his position against Pinkerton. Following a quick loss ORHS played Mascenic. During the first game of the match Pat Houle injured his right ring finger and left the game, Carl Seid was moved to setter.

The rest of the season seems bright. After the Derryfield game Coach Carson hoped his team would "take the emotion and go with it." Setter Ben Rous said, "We've been caught in a rut," with a five game winning streak they appear to have done just that. Shao-Yen Lin thinks of his teammates, "We have enough strength to beat everyone but we have to be mentally prepared." Everyone on the team agrees but they know that if they stop trying when they are ahead they won't stay there.



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Richard Tappan photo

Sherif Farag and Tim Dee gain control over Timberlane.

Exciting "Rebuilding" Year for Girl Kickers;

By Seth Alie

The Girls' varsity soccer team lost Con Val on Wednesday with a score of 2-0. With the results of this game the Bobcat's record is currently 6-6-1. Unfortunately, the easy part of the season is over. They face the top 3 teams in the state for their last games. Hanover, Souhegan, and Kearsarge will certainly make some tough matches for the Bobcats.

With seniors coming to the end of their high school soccer career, the pressure is on them to fulfill the dreams making it to the semi-finals. Friday's game was their last home game of their years here at ORHS.

This year's team combines the experience of seniors with the yearning of underclassmen. The team consists of twelve seniors who help move the play of the ball quickly. Captain Lesley Folensbee said, "The unity on

the team this year is much better than past years. Players this year are getting along on and off the field."

Chris Curran, the new head coach of the varsity team has a lot to look forward to. Curran has coached girls' J.V. soccer for the past five years and took over Coach Morrill's position this year. The girls are coping with the change of the coaching staff. Sophomore player, Meredith Watson said, "The main difference between this year and last year is that it is more relaxed." Curran has dealt with the positives and negatives in taking over the job done by Chris Morrill. Coach Curran said, "It's exciting to work with these girls and some that I have worked with before on the J.V. squad. My goal for the team this year is to be at least 500."

Imagine being a freshman on a varsity soccer team and the starting goalie. Well, for Ayshe Woodward that is a

reality. It is not unusual to see her making amazing penalty saves against Hanover and her aggressive diving slides for the ball are breath taking. Ayshe said, "Soccer is much more intense at this level. I was scared at first, but they're (the players) not that mean after all."

The intensity at the varsity level is handled well with the teams' great ability at passing and clearing the ball out of their own end. Despite the fact that this year was supposed to be a "rebuilding" year, it has turned into more. Captain Kelly Watson said, "Our team has more than rebuilt, we have succeeded in proving that we are worth something."

O.R. definitely proved they were worth something with their win against rival St. Thomas earlier this season. The game was golden, with two goals from Anne Gault and Melanie Braswell which clinched the win. The game

ended 2-1, with the Bobcats in a pig pile at mid field. Starter Mel Braswell said, "The fire of our team increased as a result of this win." The team improved over the season that opposing coaches classify them as one of the best passing teams in the state. Captain Anne Gault summed up the season with the following statement "Well, how's that for a rebuilding year?"

As a result of an earlier concern of the teams' attitude, the team has since picked up their heads and made progress. They have beat the previously undefeated Timberlane, 3-0, after losing to them earlier in the season with a score of 3-2. "We have had spaghetti dinners and are now working better as a team rather than as individuals," says mid-field Jeremy Gasowski, "and we now have Russell

back which will add to our defense." Kevin Russell had been out for four weeks from a broken arm.

Coach Cirillo said that his age has apparently been an issue for some people. At 22, Cirillo is only 4 years older than some team members. He said some people consider his youthfulness an asset. And even though the last decision comes down to the coach, the players input is heard during each half time when they get to talk. Cirillo's main concern is for them to play as a team and be happy.

"Having a lot of spectators and their support always adds to the game, too," says John Cirillo. When asked about upcoming tough games, Ben Bilodeau replied, "All of the games will be tough, we're not a team that can just walk out on the field and expect to win, our wins are a result of our diligence and willingness to work together as one cohesive unit."



photo courtesy of yearbook

Kelly Watson smokes a Timberlane player

Girls' Volleyball Defeats Salem

By Doug Pitman

The Girls' Varsity Volleyball team defeated Salem in Monday night's quarter-finals, 15-3, 15-6, as the team continues its season-long undefeated record, preparing for Thursday's semi-finals.

The girls' varsity volleyball team has ended this season as they ended last season, undefeated. Because the team is the two-time defending state champions, there are a lot of expectations.

Several players admitted that the season started out with people fighting for positions, which caused some team friction. As positions started to be filled the team began to gel. Team harmony was also improved by the

"two time" structure. There are "gold" and "platinum" teams, making it easier to get everyone more playing time. The platinum plays the first match, and the gold plays the second. Playing time is a factor because of all of the hard work from all the players. The team is lead by several seniors including captains Krista Poole, Amy Howell, and Jess Houle.

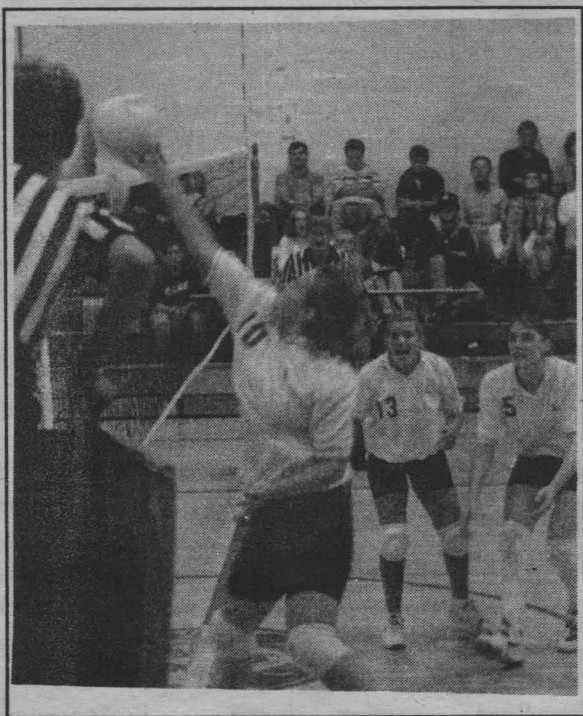
A lot of the players say that the most pressure they have this year is being the Defending State Champs. "It seems like everyone is out to get us," said junior Stacey Shaheen. "The pressure of teams playing well against us raises our game to a higher level," stated senior captain Krista Poole. The stakes are high for the volleyball team being undefeated and returning champs.

"Our toughest opponent this year

was Belmont," according Laurie McDowell. The reason for this is that they both were state champs last year in different divisions. Belmont is in the lower division, but is still very respected by the Bobcats.

In their biggest game of the season against Belmont Monday night October 2, OR rose to the challenge. OR showed that they could defeat the best of teams. It was one of their tougher games, but still OR won in two games, a decisive victory. The first game was 15-6, and the second was 15-10. "Everyone played very well, and it was the best we played all season", said Stacey Shaheen. Coach Ed Sharon said "We are getting better every

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Mike Beland photo

Amy Howell spikes the ball in a recent match against Plymouth